

Reviews and Bibliographical Notices.

Text-Book of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology.
By JOHN J. REESE, M.D., Prof. of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. Philadelphia : P. Blakiston & Co., 1884., pp. 606.

The author's preface constitutes probably as correct a criticism as can be made of the book before us. He says : " This text-book has been written more particularly to meet the wants of students of legal medicine." To avoid the objection of extending the book to a large size, the author has " endeavored to condense in a handy volume all the essentials of the science, and to present the various topics in a simple and familiar style, giving greater prominence of course to those of the greatest practical importance."

The author has certainly attained his object. As a text-book for the general student who wishes to make himself familiar with the elements of medical jurisprudence, the book will be found very valuable, all important facts receiving attention, and the style of writing being clear and entertaining. Unfortunately, however, for the more advanced student, the size of the volume has been kept within its narrow limits by the omission of illustrative cases. In no other branch of medical science are these so valuable as in medico-legal studies, and when a book is written which, of necessity, is unable to incorporate them, very much of its value is naturally lost. The pages of this work, however, are so full of facts and leading statements that we readily acknowledge the necessity for this omission. In the introductory chapter, attention is again called to the conflict of opinion which is frequently met with among so-called " experts," and which does so much towards rendering such testimony ridiculous in the eyes of the public. The following sensible advice is given : " No one should presume to assume the position of an expert witness who has not devoted his special attention to the matter under consideration, and who is, therefore, not really able to enlighten the jury." The incorrectness of the American manner of obtaining expert testimony is also dwelt upon, and the German plan recommended, according to which the expert is not called by the prosecution or defence, and paid by them, but experts are appointed by the state ;

they are state officers, and their entire time must be devoted to this duty. The advantages of this plan are so manifest, and it has received such ample discussion, that it is strange that we still cling to the old and insufficient method. The toxicological part of the work is particularly complete, and very great attention has evidently been bestowed upon it. The chapter on insanity, in contrast to that on toxicology, is very brief and inadequate, but it contains considerable information which will be of service to the beginner. A short chapter on medical malpractice, and one on life insurance, completes the work. Besides being of value to all medical students who wish to master the rudiments of medical jurisprudence, the book can also be recommended to the advanced student who may desire to refresh his memory upon forgotten, fundamental principles. The index is a particularly full one, and greatly enhances the value of the work.

G. W. JACOBY.

Topographical Anatomy of the Brain. By J. C. DALTON, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Physiology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; and President of the College. 3 vols. 4to. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1885.

The methods of studying the brain have suffered many changes. Not content with the knowledge to be obtained from gross anatomical preparations, anatomists took refuge in the microscope and carefully studied the thousands of sections into which the brain had been divided. Some eight or ten years ago, Flechsig published his embryological (developmental) method, which at the time promised startling results. More recently the experimental (atrophy) method has had its praises sung by Gudden, Forel, and v. Monakow.

Prof. Dalton's volumes come to us as a reminder that the oldest, purely anatomical method is still worth pursuing; that its resources are not yet exhausted, and that much may be learned from such sections as are here presented.

The work before us is essentially an atlas and not a text-book. The author evidently started out with the intention of making it both; for, upon the introductory remarks follows a remarkably lucid statement of the configuration of the hemispheres. For some reason unknown to us, he does not treat of other parts of the brain in the same happy manner. The remainder of the text contains nothing more than an explanation of the various plates.

By these plates the book must be judged. Their artistic excellence was secured by the skill of the photographer, Mr. Mason, to whom especial praise is due. We do not remember ever to have seen more faithful representations of the external appearance of the brain than those given on the first three plates of Series *A*, and on the series *B*, of horizontal sections, the gray and the white masses are differentiated with astounding clearness.

In the introduction to these volumes, the author gives a detailed account of the manner in which these sections were prepared. After careful injections of the ventricular cavities with a warm solution of gelatine, the whole mass of the brain was imbedded in